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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

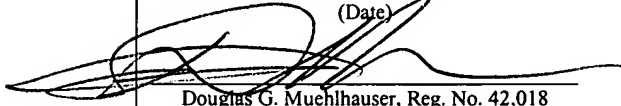
Applicant : Akio Wakabayashi, M.D.
Appl. No. : 10/084,689
Filed : February 26, 2002
For : APPARATUS AND METHOD
FOR SUTURING IN
RESTRICTED SPACE
Examiner : Bradford C. Pantuck
Group Art Unit : 3731

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence and all marked attachments are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on

May 13, 2004

(Date)


Douglas G. Muehlhauser, Reg. No. 42,018

RESPONSE TO OFFICE COMMUNICATION OF APRIL 13, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicant hereby responds to the Office communication mailed April 13, 2004. Applicant's withdrawal of certain claims and the listing of pending claims begins on page 2 of this response. Applicant's remarks concerning election of claims follow on page 4.